

Accident Checklist

By John F. Smith

- The Accident
 - Contact the police** Even if you don't think your injuries are severe, make sure the police come to the scene of the accident.
 - Get name, license number, tag number, insurance company name and policy number and exchange information with all the drivers at the accident place.
 - Take photographs of your injuries.
 - Take photographs of the damage to all vehicles and of the scene of the accident.
 - Get a copy of the accident report if police responded.
 - Witnesses** Keep a record of witnesses' names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.
- After the Accident
 - Seek immediate medical attention.
 - Do not admit fault immediately after the accident.
 - Follow through with all medical treatments.
 - Do not answer any questions from the other side's insurance company or attorney.
 - Do not sign any forms without approval from your attorney.
 - Do not settle your case until all necessary medical expenses are known.
 - Keep copies of all documents such as bills or medical records.
 - Log all office visits, prescriptions, physical therapy, hospital visits, treatments etc for your medical expenses.
 - Keep a log of all time taken off from work as a result of the accident.
 - Keep a log of lost school time and/or inability to continue with school work as you did before the accident.
 - Continue to take photographs of your injuries at different times after the accident.
 - Contact witnesses for a written statement.
 - Keep a daily log of your thoughts, feelings and experiences on a day-to-day basis, documenting how the injuries have interfered with your daily life.
 - Get car repair estimates and/or bills.

- If unsatisfied with an initial estimate, take the automobile to a certified mechanic for another estimate.
- Keep records of everything you've paid for out-of-pocket relating to or as a result of injuries suffered in the accident.